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tion. To the natural suggestion that the centralized system be abolished, Bodley replies that "if the Napoleonic fabric of centralization, which has survived all the vicissitudes of the century, were demolished, it would bring down with it every institution in France with havoc more ruinous than that of 1789, and to build another structure, another Napoleon would be needed." In another sentence, Bodley admirably characterizes the government of France when he says that "side by side with the parliamentary republic, of which every president has abdicated save one, who was murdered, and under which a minister who retains his portfolio for a year is a curiosity, subsists a series of stable official hierarchies, administrative, ecclesiastical, military, and judicial, which incarnate the spirit of the nation."

In three chapters devoted to the three words of the Revolutionary motto, "Liberty, Equality, Fraternity," Bodley examines the attitude of modern France toward these principles. As to liberty, he finds that it is "a mere subject of the class room and the library." "Equality" is represented by the Legion of Honor, by nobiliary titles, and by the growing power of wealth as a molder of class distinctions. Of the third principle, Metternich said: "Fraternity, as it is practiced in France, has led me to the conclusion that if I had a brother I would call him my cousin." This requires considerable qualification, although the Jews of France might be tempted to accept it unreservedly.

France is pervaded with pessimism. Hitherto, when dissatisfied with the existing régime, she has solaced herself with the thought that one day it could be dispensed with. But now the republic, the object of her hopes, has proved a failure, and no one offers a remedy. There is nothing to take its place. Bodley, however, seems to regard the future with hope; for the strength of the nation lies in its people, and no fact is more impressive in France than the superiority of the people to their government.

CARL EVANS BOYD.

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*Reflections on the Formation and the Distribution of Riches.* By TURGOT, 1770. (Economic Classics). New York: The Macmillan Company, 1898. 12mo. pp. xxii + 112.

THE editor of *Economic Classics* has again placed economic readers under obligation, by presenting a painstaking and excellent edition of Turgot's *Reflections*. The editor's task has been performed

with the same scrupulous regard for a veracious presentation of his author's work as has attended previous issues of the series, and the result is a rendering of the great Frenchman's economic doctrines such as leaves little to be desired either in reliability or in accessibility. Not the least commendable feature of this slender volume is the excerpts from the correspondence between Turgot and Hume, published in an appendix. Meager as they seem, these excerpts throw a light upon Turgot's position and upon his relation to the Physiocratic school which will help students toward an apprehension of the author's true place in the development of economic doctrine.

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*The Elective Franchise in the United States.* By DUNCAN C. McMillan. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1898. 12mo. pp. 202.

THIS book, aside from the preface and the appendix, is a reprint of the edition of 1878. The author has proposed a new plan for the election of officers, with a view to offering a remedy for the political evils of the present. His method is that of first presenting what he conceives to be the theoretical basis of parties and the nature of political issues. He then portrays the political evils that he would correct, and follows this with his plan as a remedy.

The evils, as he sees them, grow largely out of independent party organization. He would supplant the present system of elections by a plan which "would tend to destroy party prejudices and eliminate party lines." There would be no nominations by conventions or caucuses as such. The people would cast their votes at a regular election for anyone they chose to, designating the candidates as belonging to the "first canvass" or the "second canvass," and then, in case no candidate received a majority of all votes cast, a second election would be held between the two candidates having the highest number of votes in each "canvass." The plan, if adopted, would result, no doubt, in making the first election a primary, giving it the benefit of being conducted under regular election laws, and, also, would provide a system whereby those elected would always receive a majority of the votes cast.

There are many interesting suggestions made, but it may well be doubted whether the adoption of a plan of elections in just this form would add to the security of popular institutions. In the first place,